

## Proper 21C: Jeremiah (Story Bundle)

**Storyteller:** This is a story bundle. You have seen other bundles like this before. In the Story Room, there's a bundle that tells all about the life of Moses, who rescued the God's people from slavery in Egypt, and led them to the promised land. There's also a bundle that tells all about Ruth, who was faithful to Naomi and whose grandson David became king over God's People. This bundle tells us about the prophet Jeremiah.

*Unroll the bundle to the first object and open up the sides to display a broken crown.* King David's son Solomon was the wisest of all Israel's kings, but the kings in Israel were not always wise. Solomon's sons fought over who would be the next king, and the kingdom of Israel was divided between them. So there were now two kings, and two countries, Judah and Israel. Israel was conquered in a war, so then God's people had only half a kingdom: Judah.

*Unroll the bundle to the second object and open up the sides to display a stone idol.* The people in Judah and Israel began to forget God's laws. Some of them worshipped idols.

*Unroll the bundle to the third object and open up the sides to display an almond flower.* God called Jeremiah to be His prophet and remind the people to worship only God, and to be just to one another, to the poor, and to strangers. God showed Jeremiah lessons in everyday objects. When Jeremiah was afraid that he was too young to be a prophet, God showed him an almond flower that ripens early. Like the almond flower, Jeremiah was ready early in his life.

*Unroll the bundle to the fourth object and open up the sides to display a sword.* God told Jeremiah to warn the people that, if they did not start to obey God's law, that God would not protect them from war. Their enemies would come with swords and conquer them. But there were some people who were paid to be prophets even though they did not hear God speaking to them. They said "Jeremiah is lying. There will be peace, not war."

*Unroll the bundle to the fifth object: a clay cup.* Jeremiah saw a potter making something out of clay, like this. When the pot was crooked, the potter squashed the clay down and made something different. Jeremiah said that God could squash Judah in the same way. The paid prophets got angry and asked the king to kill Jeremiah. But the king was afraid the Jeremiah might be right. In those days, if people wanted a cup of water, they got it from a well dug deep into the ground. Sometimes the water got all used up, and the well would be dry. Instead of killing Jeremiah, the king had Jeremiah imprisoned in a dry well with no water in it. Later he locked Jeremiah in a normal prison.

*Unroll the bundle to the sixth object: a piece of chain* But even though the king did not kill

### Story Materials

- Story Bundle
- crown
- idol
- almond flower
- cup
- sword
- chain
- key
- stones

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Jeremiah, he didn't do what Jeremiah had said, either. So God let another king, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, attack Judah and win. All the rich and important people in Judah were chained up and taken away to other lands.

*Unroll the bundle to the seventh object: a key* The soldiers from Babylon respected Jeremiah. They knew he had spoken the truth about God. So they set Jeremiah free.

*Unroll the bundle to the eighth object: two flat stones* Jeremiah stayed with the poor people in Judah, but even then they did not listen to him. They decided to run away to Egypt to escape the Babylonians. So Jeremiah carried two big stones with them to Egypt, and told them “The Babylonians will come to Egypt, too, and these stones will be a foundation for a Babylonian throne. That was Jeremiah's last prophecy.